

# Child Labor Laws *in Massachusetts\**

## Legal Work Hours for Minors 2007

14 & 15 Year Olds		16 & 17 Year Olds	
<b>Work Hours</b> <i>During the school year:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Only between 7 am and 7 pm</li><li>Not during school hours</li></ul> <i>During the summer (July 1—Labor Day):</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Only between 7 am and 9 pm</li></ul>	<b>Maximum Hours</b> <i>When school <u>IS</u> in session:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>18 hours per week</li><li>3 hours per day on school days</li><li>8 hours per day on weekends and holidays</li><li>6 days per week</li></ul> <i>When school <u>IS NOT</u> in session:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>40 hours per week</li><li>8 hours per day</li><li>6 days per week</li></ul>	<b>Work Hours</b> <i>ALL year round:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Only between 6 am and 10 pm on nights preceding a regularly scheduled school day</li><li>If the establishment stops serving customers at 10 pm, the minor may be employed until 10:15 pm</li><li>Only between 6 am and 11:30 pm on nights <i>not</i> preceding a regularly scheduled school day, except in restaurants and race tracks until midnight</li></ul>	<b>Maximum Hours</b> <i>ALL year round:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>48 hours per week</li><li>9 hours per day</li><li>6 days per week</li></ul> <b>After 8 pm, all minors must be directly supervised by an adult who is located in the workplace and who is reasonably accessible.</b> (With the exception of minors who work at kiosks in the common areas of some malls.)

All teens under 18 must get a **Work Permit** from the school district where they live or go to school. For more information, visit the website of the Division of Occupational Safety at: [www.mass.gov/dos/youth](http://www.mass.gov/dos/youth).

## Prohibited Jobs for Minors

### Persons *under 16* may NOT:

- Operate power-driven machinery (except office machines or machines in retail or food service not otherwise prohibited)
- Cook (except on electric or gas grills that do not have open flames)
- Operate fryolators, rotisseries, NEICO broilers, or pressure cookers
- Operate, clean, or repair power-driven food slicers, grinders or choppers
- Perform any baking activities
- Operate microwave ovens (except to heat food in microwave ovens with a maximum capacity of 140 degrees Fahrenheit)
- Clean kitchen surfaces that are hotter than 100 degrees Fahrenheit
- Filter, transport, or dispose of cooking oil or grease hotter than 100 degrees Fahrenheit
- Work in freezers or meat coolers
- Work in a manufacturing facility (e.g., a factory)
- Work on ladders or scaffolds
- Work in garages, except dispensing gas and oil
- Work in brick or lumber yards
- Work in amusement places (e.g., pool or billiard room, or bowling alley)
- Work in barber shops
- Work in construction, transportation, communications, or public utilities (except doing clerical work away from heavy machinery off the job-site)
- Work in warehouses (except doing clerical work)
- Load or unload trucks, railroad cars, or conveyors
- Wash windows in public or commercial buildings if the window sill is more than 10 feet above the ground
- Work doing laundry in a commercial laundry or dry cleaning establishment
- Work as a public messenger
- Work at processing operations (e.g., in meat, fish, or poultry processing or cracking nuts, bulk or mass mailing)
- Work around boilers or in engine rooms
- Do industrial homework
- Work with dangerous electrical machinery or appliances
- Work that is determined by the Massachusetts Attorney General to be dangerous to the health and well-being of minors
- Work in any of the occupations or tasks prohibited for persons under age 18**

### Persons *under 18* may NOT:

- Drive a vehicle or forklift (except golf carts in certain circumstances)
- Operate, clean, or repair power-driven meat slicers, grinders or choppers
- Operate, clean, or repair power-driven bakery machines
- Work 30 feet or more above ground or water
- Handle, serve, or sell alcoholic beverages
- Use circular or band saws, or guillotine shears
- Use power-driven woodworking machines
- Use hoisting machines
- Operate paper balers, paper box compactors, or other power-driven paper products machines
- Use power-driven metal-forming, punching, or shearing machines
- Use buffing or polishing equipment
- Manufacture brick, tile, or kindred products
- Manufacture or store explosives
- Work in excavation, wrecking, demolition, or shipbreaking
- Work in logging, sawmilling, or mining
- Work slaughtering, packing, or processing meat
- Work in railway operations
- Work in roofing or on or about a roof
- Work in foundries or around blast furnaces
- Work manufacturing phosphorus or phosphorus matches
- Work where they are exposed to radioactive substances
- Work as a firefighter or engineer on a boat
- Oil or clean hazardous machinery in motion
- Work in any job requiring the possession or use of a firearm

### Resources for More Information

#### For questions about wages or the child labor laws:

- Massachusetts Office of the Attorney General  
Fair Labor and Business Practices Division  
[www.ago.state.ma.us](http://www.ago.state.ma.us) - (617) 727-3465
- U.S. Department of Labor, Wage and Hour Division  
[www.dol.gov/esa/whd](http://www.dol.gov/esa/whd) - (617) 624-6700

#### For questions about workers' compensation:

- Massachusetts Department of Industrial Accidents  
[www.mass.gov/dia](http://www.mass.gov/dia) - (800) 323-3249 x470

#### For questions about health and safety:

- U.S. Department of Labor  
Occupational Safety & Health Administration  
[www.osha.gov](http://www.osha.gov)  
Methuen Office - (617) 565-8110  
Braintree Office - (617) 565-6924  
Springfield Office - (413) 785-0123
- Massachusetts Department of Public Health  
Occupational Health Surveillance Program  
Teens at Work Injury Surveillance and Prevention Project  
[www.mass.gov/dph/ohsp](http://www.mass.gov/dph/ohsp) - (617) 624-5632

\* This is a compilation of state and federal child labor laws. The most protective laws are presented here and apply to all employers of teens including family members who employ their teenaged relatives. There are additional regulations and some exceptions for employers in agricultural industries and student learners participating in cooperative education programs.

This poster was prepared by the Massachusetts Department of Public Health's Teens at Work Injury Surveillance and Prevention Project and the Massachusetts Office of the Attorney General with funding from the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health. For more information, please call (617) 624-5632 or email us at [teens.atwork@state.ma.us](mailto:teens.atwork@state.ma.us).